Expansion of Haldia Port

179. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Haldia port is being expanded to increase its share in the container handling market;

(b) if so, details of investment plan; and

(c) the target for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Progress of dredging operation in Haldia Port

180. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dredging contract for additional maintenance in approach channel to Haldia Port was awarded to a Dutch firm on depth guaranteed basis;

(b) whether the same has been fulfilled by the contractor;

(c) the present status of the contract; and

(d) the present status of draught in approach to Haldia Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Calcutta Port Trust has reported that the same has been fulfilled by the contractor as per the contractual terms.

(c) The contract was determined by performance and the contractor has ceased dredging with effect from 19.7.99.

(d) Dredging of the approach channel was entrusted to M/s. Dredging Corporation of India Limited with effect 19.7.99 and the same is in progress. The present navigable depth at Jellingham in the approach channel to Haldia Dock Complex is 5.1 metres.